

***State of Washington  
Department of Transportation  
Legal Notice of Intent to Sole Source***

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) announces its intention to establish a sole source contract with Northwest Weathernet to provide statewide weather forecast services to WSDOT's Maintenance division. WSDOT will award one contract for approximately \$500,000 for the first two years with the option to extend it for another \$500,000 for an additional two years.

Northwest Weathernet has developed a vast amount of field experience over an extended period of time. Over the course of 20 years, an "experiential curve" has been established. This "experiential curve" is composed of two basic elements: One, they have developed a clear understanding of how various weather patterns affect the vast micro-climates in Washington state. Two, they have developed a knowledge database of how WSDOT personnel conduct their maintenance activities and how those activities or local practices vary from area to area or region to region. We believe that bringing in a new vendor would essentially cause WSDOT to start from "Ground Zero", without the benefit of knowledge and experience Northwest Weathernet currently provides.

A service program is comprised of 3 basic components. One, weather forecasting skill as it applied to Washington State. Two, the "application" of specific forecasting to specific and changing transportation needs (i.e. "what will it do to my road".) Three, effective and sustained communication on all levels to the end user. Developing all these elements, for a sustained level of customer acceptance and satisfaction, is necessary to be deemed at least marginally acceptable.

The Weathernet program was developed 23 years ago and continues to sustain business today with growth in the transportation sector. Many established methods and practices utilized by Weathernet in the past are still utilized today, despite new, developing technologies. These older, established practices continue to play a significant role in the transportation community. Many of the basic principles of customer service, which are a focus of the Weathernet program, largely take a back seat to other agencies, which are heavily consumed with developing technology. Weathernet is moving with the flow on technological fronts, but has not dispensed with the "tried and true" services.

Weather forecasting plays a major role in all of our maintenance organization decisions. Accurate weather forecasting is critical for our winter operations in order to make good management decisions on when to schedule crews and when to apply or not apply anti-icers or deicers to the road surface. Virtually every decision made in winter operations, has a direct relationship to the weather.

Summer operations can also utilize weather forecasting to assist with scheduling of herbicide applications for Vegetation Management purposes. We are required by federal guidelines mandated under the Environmental Protection Agency, Washington State Department of Agriculture and by pesticide manufacturers to adhere to label instructions in order to make proper pesticide applications. Weather conditions such as wind speed, temperature, inversion patterns and precipitation will affect whether or not we can make those applications. Accurate weather forecasting could further assist us making critical decisions in scheduling Vegetation Management activities.

In addition to Vegetation Management, our summer asphalt paving operations hinge greatly on weather conditions. Therefore, we would plan on utilizing these forecasting services to facilitate scheduling for paving activities.

The scope of work would include but are not limited to: construction activities, disaster operations, and consideration of budget impacts effected by weather.

Challengers are required to submit a brief statement of their Intent to Challenge, and must address the following criteria as it relates to the project:

- 1 Qualifications/Expertise of Firms on Team;
- 2 Qualifications of Proposed Project Manager;
- 3 Key Team Members Qualifications (Prime Consultant and Sub-Consultants);
- 4 Firm's Project Management System (Prime Consultant Only);
- 5 References/past performances (Prime Consultant Only); and
- 6 Cost factors (Prime Consultant Only.)

Your submittal is limited to a total maximum number of ten (10) sheets submitted only on single sided (single sided meaning one side only of a single sheet of paper) typed 8.5" x 11" paper (if charts and/or graphs are utilized text must be readable size font,) and with type size no smaller than 12 point. The page limitation does not apply to the transmittal letter, front and back cover, the completed Performance Evaluation forms, and the completed Submittal Information Packet form(s.) Please provide only one (1) copy of the completed Performance Evaluation forms and the completed Submittal Information Packet form(s.) These forms should be accompanied with your Letter of Transmittal and should be submitted under separate cover and not bound within your Notice of Intent to Challenge.

The "Notice of Intent to Challenge" shall meet the following requirements or will be deemed non-responsive and will not be eligible for consideration of this work:

- 1 Title of the Notice of Intent to Sole Source on the cover of the submittal and the Transmittal Letter;
- 2 Transmittal Letter;
- 3 Completed Submittal Information Packet form for the Prime Consultant and all proposed Sub-Consultants (1 set);
- 4 Completed Performance Evaluations for the Prime Consultant Only;
- 5 Responsiveness to all challenge criteria;
- 6 Meeting page limitations and font size requirements; and
- 7 Meeting submittal deadline submission date.

Your "Notice of Intent to Challenge" must be received no later than 5:00 PM, Wednesday, September 7, 2005, at the below address:

Director, Consultant Services  
Washington State Department of Transportation  
Capital View II Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor



## **Notice of Intent to Sole Source**

724 Quince Street SE  
Olympia, WA 98504-7323

No submittals will be accepted after that date and time. Faxed or e-mailed submittals will not be accepted.

Any questions regarding this notice should be directed to WSDOT Consultant Services Office at 360-705-7147.

Date of publication in the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce: Wednesday, August 31, 2005.

Challenge due date: Wednesday, September 7, 2005.